



Intermediate Space Technology Education Program Fact Sheet

The Intermediate Space Technology Education Program (I-STEP) at NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center (SSC) is dedicated to teaching students in grades five through eight about science, technology and physics and their related principles, theories and laws. This program seeks to motivate students through their involvement in science, math and engineering using interactive exercises and videos. I-STEP's goal is to introduce students to grade-appropriate scientific and mathematical concepts.

Upon arrival, students participate in the Space Experiment Olympics using hands-on demonstrations and team exercises to aid in testing their hypotheses and problem-solving abilities. Throughout the program, students explore exercises to reinforce applications of the universal law of gravity, and actual space footage is shown depicting astronauts performing similar exercises.

Throughout I-STEP, Visitors Center personnel use question-and-answer sessions and demonstrations to promote student involvement. During their adventure, students get an up-close look at NASA's past, present and proposed future fleet of launch vehicles, spacesuits, space food and technology. The Visitors Center museum showcases the benefits of space travel via displays that cover the Apollo era, when man first walked on the moon, through the present-day Space Shuttle era. Students are also introduced to technology and programs involving space research. This session ends with hands-on activities in Space Believe, an interactive science learning center.

Before leaving Stennis, each student is given a packet containing items such as at-home science experiments, information on aerospace careers and book markers. I-STEP concludes with a 30-minute tour of the space center and the Space Shuttle Main Engine test complex. While at Stennis, educators may visit the Teacher Resource Center to collect materials geared toward the intermediate school level.

For more information about I-STEP or to schedule a day for classes to participate, call the Stennis Space Center Visitors Center at 1-800-237-1821, or access the Visitors Center home page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.ssc.nasa.gov> (no quotes).

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